

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application in the Office Action dated September 12, 2006. Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, and 18 - 20 were previously canceled. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 17 are pending. Independent claims 1 and 11 are amended.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicants did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneki et al. (U.S. 6,568,402) in view of Aronoff et al. (U.S. 5,107,866). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the Examiner's rejection but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, each of independent claims 1 and 11 has been amended to recite a combination of elements, including *inter alia*

wherein the continuous loop pattern extends over almost an entire surface of the wrapping paper and loops adjacent in the longitudinal direction of the wrapping paper are connected to each other with an overlap.

In the rejection, the Examiner combines Kaneki et al. and Aronoff et al., and asserts that Aronoff et al. discloses a loop pattern. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

With the present invention, since the continuous loop pattern forming an adhesive region extends over the entire surface of the wrapping paper, the bonding power of the wrapping paper can be made uniform in the longitudinal direction as well as in the widthwise direction of the wrapping paper.

Compared with the continuous loop pattern of the present invention, the adhesive 17 of Aronoff et al. is applied such that the figures (bar patterns) described adjacent in the longitudinal direction of the wrapping paper are not connected to each other. Thus, in Aronoff et al., the adhesive 17 applied does not impart a uniform bonding power to the wrapping paper 11. Further, even though the adhesive 17 is sprayed in a spiral manner, the loops that the adhesive 17 describes are so dense as to form a bar pattern, which are not equivalent to the loops with a point-wise overlap in the present invention.

At least for the reasons described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claim 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kaneki et al. and Aronoff et al.

Therefore, claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Further, dependent claims 6, 16, and 17 are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel limitations set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

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Reply dated December 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated September 12, 2006

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CONCLUSION

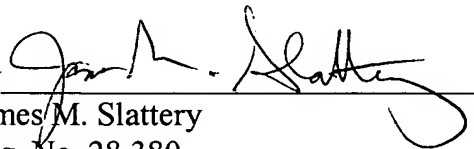
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380
P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

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